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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: POLTO 2205, FEBRUARY 4.

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SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 2205, BERLIN POLTO 34, REPEATED INFORMATION
LONDON POLTO 584, BONN POLTO 360, MOSCOW POLTO 118.

POUCHED ALL OTHER NATO CAPITALS POLTO UNNUMBERED

NAC MEETING FEBRUARY 4 (RESTRICTED) - ITEM VI (BERLIN CRISIS).

162.00/2-459

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-2- POLTO 2205, FEBRUARY 4, FROM PARIS

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT AND US, AFTER SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON (1) DETENTION US TRUCKS ON AUTOBAHN, AND (2) IMPENDING US PRESS RELEASE ON SHUTDOWN AIR FORCE TRANSPORT (REPORTED SEPARATELY), MADE SHORT STATEMENT ON VISIT SECRETARY DULLES TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS. SAID SECRETARY ARRIVING LONDON NOON FEBRUARY 4, PARIS LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 5, AND BONN FEBRUARY 7. WHILE IN PARIS WOULD TALK WITH DE GAULLE, COUVE DE MURVILLE AND SPAAK. TRIP NOT DUE TO ANY PRESENT EMERGENCY BUT TO BELIEF PERSONAL TALKS BY SECRETARY WITH UK, FRENCH AND GERMAN LEADERS, AND SPAAK, DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME. WENT ON TO SAY FOUR POWER WORKING GROUP NOW AT WORK AND US AND FOUR ALLIED HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND NECESSITY GIVING NAC ADEQUATE TIME TO CONSIDER REPLY AND, LATER, SUBSTANCE OF POSITION ON GERMANY.

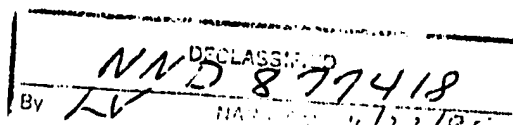
CANADA ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE SPECIAL NAC MEETING IF DRAFT READY BEFORE NEXT REGULAR MEETING. US AND UK REPLIED NOT SURE WHEN DRAFT WOULD BE READY. UK ADDED HOPED IT WOULD COME STRAIGHT TO NAC WITHOUT WAITING FOR FOUR POWER GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL AND THAT NAC WOULD HAVE A WEEK FOR CONSIDERATION.

SPAAK THOUGHT MACMILLAN TRIP PROBABLY GOOD IDEA BUT DISTURBED IT OCCURRING BEFORE FURTHER PROGRESS MADE IN DEVELOPING SUBSTANCE WESTERN POSITION RE BERLIN AND GERMANY. GLAD TO HEAR MACMILLAN WILL NOT NEGOTIATE BUT WARNED KHRUSHCHEV WILL WISH EXPLORE WESTERN INTENTIONS THROUGH MACMILLAN. ASKED FOUR POWERS NOT DELAY TOO LONG IN EVOLVING SUBSTANTIVE POSITION. SUGGESTED EUROPEAN SECURITY COMMITTEE SHOULD PERHAPS BE REVIVED.

UK REPLIED PERHAPS EASIER FOR MACMILLAN VISIT OCCUR BEFORE WESTERN POSITION FIRM SINCE HE COULD NOT THEN BE EXPECTED SAY MORE THAN MIKOYAN HAD IN US RE RUSSIAN POSITION WHICH WAS VERY LITTLE. REITERATED FOUR POWERS HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND NECESSITY GIVING NAC ADEQUATE TIME

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FOR CONSIDERATION SHORT PROCEDURAL REPLY AND SUBSTANTIVE POSITION.

DENMARK NOTED PAPERS CARRIED RUMORS SECRETARY BRINGING NEW APPROACHES AND ASKED IF US COULD SUPPLY INFORMATION. US REPLIED DID NOT THINK SECRETARY HAD ANY RABBITS TO PULL OUT OF HAT AND ARTICLES WERE JOURNALISTIC SPECULATION WHICH AT LEAST HAD VIRTUE OF MAKING PEOPLE THINK OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES. SAID THERE NO BASIS FOR HIGGINS ARTICLE IN TODAY'S HERLAND TRIBUNE.

SPAARK SAID NEXT QUESTION NAC MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WAS WHETHER WEST SHOULD STATE WILLINGNESS TO HOLD CONFERENCE OVER GERMAN MATTERS AND SUGGEST A DATE BEFORE WEST HAD MADE MORE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING SUBSTANTIVE POSITION. CAN'T EXPECT WORKING GROUP CONSIDER SUBSTANCE UNTIL SECRETARY'S RETURN AND SINCE REPLY MUST BE SENT SOON IT CAN ONLY BE PROCEDURAL.

IN RESPONSE TO DANISH AND NORWEGIAN QUESTIONS UK SAID TOO EARLY YET TO KNOW WHAT WORKING GROUP WILL EVOLVE BUT EXPECTED SHORT, PROCEDURAL REPLY AND, ON SUBSTANCE, LIST OF QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE DECIDED.

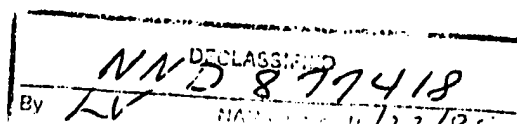
IN RESPONSE CANADIAN QUESTION, US REPLIED ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE SOME RSODLGSDNX* SECRETARY'S TRIP BUT DID NOT KNOW HOW DETAILED, AS TALKS WERE CONFIDENTIAL AND INVOLVED OTHERS.

U.S. POINTED OUT WE SHOULD NOT FORGET WEST HAD A SOUND SUBSTANTIVE POSITION CAREFULLY WORKED OUT IN PAST AND REPEATEDLY CONFIRMED BY MINISTERS AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. TWO GENEVA DISCUSSIONS WERE SOUND EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT PHASES OF THAT POSITION. CONTINUED THAT FINAL POSITIONS WEST MAY REACH IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS WILL BE MATTER OF TRADING AND CANNOT THEREFORE BE PUT ON TABLE AT BEGINNING WITHOUT IMPERILLING SUCCESS. CONCLUDED BY STATING VIEWS

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EXPRESSED INFORMALLY IN NAC VERY HELPFUL.

BELGIUM RECOGNIZED VALIDITY US POINTS BUT HOPED ANY NEW POSITION WOULD BE CONFIDED TO COUNCIL RATHER THAN NEWSPAPERS.

SPAAK CONCLUDED SPECIAL NAC MEETING MIGHT HAVE TO BE CALLED DEPENDING ON WHEN DRAFT REPLY READY.

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